



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

6 OCTOBER 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Sacramento – California Ends Mandatory Minimum Sentences for Nonviolent Drug Crimes

(U) California will end mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent drug crimes, following years of failed attempts to reduce these penalties. Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB73 on Tuesday without comment, giving judge's discretion to hand down probation instead of jail time for offenses such as possessing a small amount of heroin for sale and manufacturing methamphetamine. It takes effect in January 2022.

SOURCE: 5 October 2021, [The San Francisco Chronicle](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – CBP Officers Seize Over \$1.2 Million in Cocaine and Fentanyl at Pharr International Bridge

(U) Pharr – US Customs and Border Protection at the Pharr International Bridge Cargo Facility intercepted \$1,233,000 in alleged cocaine and fentanyl in two incidents. CBP officers assigned to the Pharr International Bridge cargo facility encountered a commercial tractor trailer arriving from Mexico. After physically inspecting the conveyance, officers discovered 35 packages of alleged cocaine weighing 87.74 pounds and one package of alleged fentanyl weighing 2.91 pounds concealed within the tractor. Just a few hours later, CBP officers assigned to the Pharr International Bridge cargo facility encountered a tractor trailer arriving from Mexico. After physically inspecting the conveyance, officers discovered 39 packages of cocaine weighing 67.02 pounds concealed within the tractor.

SOURCE: 5 October 2021, [US CBP](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – US Capitol Police Arrest Man Who Parked Vehicle Outside Supreme Court

(U) Washington DC – US Capitol Police said they extracted a man from a suspicious vehicle parked illegally in front of the US Supreme Court where the nine justices were hearing oral arguments on Tuesday. After an unsuccessful effort to negotiate with the man, tactical teams moved in and placed him under arrest. The man's motive was unclear to police. He refused to speak except to make a statement "to the effect of 'the time for talking is done,'" authorities said.

SOURCE: 5 October 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) District of Columbia – US Justice Department Defends Efforts to Monitor Threats to School Boards

(U) Washington DC – Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco on Tuesday defended a new initiative to combat a rise in threats and harassment targeting public school boards and teachers across the country, after Republican lawmakers accused the Justice Department of trying to stifle parents' free speech. In a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Monaco told lawmakers that the Justice Department is not trying to censor speech, but merely coordinate with state and local law enforcement to ensure "there is an awareness of how to report threats that may occur and to ensure that there's an open line of communication to address threats." On Monday night, Attorney General Merrick Garland issued a new memo directing the FBI and federal prosecutors to meet with local and state police within 30 days

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to discuss strategies for addressing the "disturbing trend" of threats facing America's public educators.
SOURCE: 5 October 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) Texas – Retired El Paso DEA Leader Gives Somber View of Drug Problem

(U) El Paso – The potential for another Mexican drug cartel war in Juárez is brewing. Fentanyl has become America's most dangerous drug and drug legalization could create a new generation of addicts. That's the sobering view of the battle against drugs given by Kyle W. Williamson, who recently retired after 30-years with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), including serving as the head of the agency's El Paso Division. "It's the worst it's ever been. There's no good news here. And the amount of meth and fentanyl coming in right now is unprecedented," Williamson said. Fentanyl is fueling a national surge in overdoses. The DEA last week issued a rare national public safety alert warning of counterfeit pills containing lethal doses of the synthetic opioid.

SOURCE: 5 October 2021, [El Paso Times](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Central African Republic – At Least 12 Killed by Militants in Road Ambush

(U) Bambari – At least 12 people were killed in Central African Republic on Tuesday when rebel fighters ambushed and set fire to three semi-trucks ferrying passengers from a regional capital, a local official said. The vehicles were travelling to the small town of Alindao from Bambari, the seat of the war-torn Ouaka prefecture, when militants linked to the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) attacked from the forest.

SOURCE: 6 October 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) Iran – Iran's Foreign Minister Reports Nuclear Talks May Resume Soon

(U) Tehran – Talks on reviving Iran's nuclear deal will resume soon in Vienna, Iranian foreign minister Hossein Amirabdollahian was quoted as saying on Wednesday at a meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov in Moscow. Interfax news agency reported Amirabdollahian as saying Tehran had received "signals" that Washington—which abandoned the 2015 nuclear pact under the previous administration—was once again interested in implementing it. Russia's foreign ministry said earlier on Wednesday Lavrov had discussed the issue of reviving the Iranian deal in a telephone call with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

SOURCE: 6 October 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) Turkey – Police Detain 16 Suspects Over Links to ISIS

(U) Istanbul – The Istanbul police units have launched simultaneous operations against the suspected foreign members of the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) and raided 18 addresses across the city. The suspects were reportedly recruiting personnel in Istanbul, conducting propaganda through social media platforms, seeking logistic support for the group. Numerous digital materials were also seized during the searches made at the addresses. Abdullah Agar, a security expert, said that ISIS, which has targeted the country with a series of deadly terror attacks since 2015, has been posing a "high potential threat" for Turkey.

SOURCE: 6 October 2021, [SIFY.com](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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